

“Joy in the Midst of Loneliness”
Philippians 1:1-11

“The surest mark of a Christian is not faith or even love – but joy.” Samuel M. Shoemaker

“Joy is the serious business of heaven.” C.S. Lewis

“You’ll not understand God until you understand this about him – God is the happiest being in the universe.” Dallas Willard.

Genome: A set of chromosomes – the full complement of genetic information that an organism inherits from its parents, especially the set of chromosomes and the genes they carry.

“The biggest disease today is not leprosy or cancer. It’s the feeling of being uncared for, unwanted – of being deserted and alone.” Mother Teresa

“It is not good for the man to be alone.” Genesis 2:18

Gospel partnership – Jesus is the center of the relationship between you and someone else.

“Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you’re willing to pay.” Steve Farrar

Principle: If Jesus is in me and Jesus is in you – then Jesus is not going to fight against Jesus.

“Our worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God’s grace. And your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God’s grace.” Jerry Bridges

Principle: Sometimes we are harder on others than God is with us.

Principle: When we deepen our lives with God, we can face people who disappoint us with grace.

“Watch out that no bitterness takes root among you, for as it springs up it causes deep trouble, hurting many in their spiritual lives.” Hebrews 12:15

“The fool who provokes his family to anger and resentment will finally have nothing worthwhile left.” Proverbs 11:29

“At last I understood: In the final analysis, forgiveness is an act of faith. By forgiving another, I am trusting that God is a better justice-maker than I am. By forgiving, I release my own right to get even and leave all issues of fairness for God to work out. I leave in God’s hands the scales that must balance justice and mercy.” Philip Yancey

Cardboard testimonies

Principle: Joy is not as much an emotion as it is a lifestyle.

Principle: Everything is an opportunity for the forward progress of the Gospel.

Principle: Gospel partnership is prayerful intercession and loving concern for people.

“Guard your heart. It’s the wellspring of life.” Proverbs 4:23

Imputed righteousness – I am declared righteous in the sight of God.

“We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with us.” Hebrews 4:15